

Questions and Answers from the Child Care Commission Meeting on April 20, 2020

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
Facility Status	Are you aware of any centers that are closed but still collecting some % of tuition in order to hold a spot for whenever they reopen? Or ones that are open and collecting some part of tuition for a child that is enrolled but not attending?	There are some facilities that are closed, but because of financial policies, they are charging families; the Division has asked facilities to be flexible with families, but the Division does not have authority to dictate policy.
	Will you please provide data of open programs at the county level?	While the data is available, it is not publicly disseminated, but this information is shared with sister organizations. Any requests should be made directly to Interim Director Snuggs.
	Is there a plan for recovery of funds if a center is closed and does not reopen?	NC DHHS and DCDEE are currently working to support child care providers across North Carolina through the timely and appropriate allocation of funds and other tangible resources. At this time, there has not been any discussion of the recovery of funds should a child care facility close permanently.
Health & Safety	Can you explain a bit about what is happening to address health/ safety concerns when PPE and cleaning supplies aren't available? Are there particularly communities where this is a particular concern?	<p>Cleaning supplies – bleach and paper towels--are the most important items for cleaning. DCDEE has information that these two items are available and accessible. Other items such as disinfectant wipes or aerosol spray cleaner (like Lysol) which are less available may be helpful but are not necessary.</p> <p>PPE is more complicated – gloves and cloth face coverings--are the most important items. Facilities are encouraged to contact their local partnership for children for assistance if they cannot find them. If they need assistance determining how much PPE they will need, they can contact their child care health consultant about what needs to be worn, when, and how to do so safely.</p> <p>If child care facilities need assistance in locating any cleaning or food supplies, they are encouraged to contact their local partnership agency.</p>

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	Is there guidance for taking temps for everyone entering the center? Why is it not a requirement?	The most recent guidance information does include guidance on temperature taking. It is not currently a requirement because facilities already to conduct health checks and, if there are signs of temperature, then temperature will be taken.
	Are providers checking their own temperatures as medical providers are?	It is required that all people entering the facility, including staff and children, be screened for symptoms of COVID-19. A Daily Health Screening form has been developed and can be found on the final page of the Interim Coronavirus Health Guidance for Child Care Settings. Temperature taking is part of the CDC screening guidance, but it is not required in NC. If the facility decides to conduct temperature checks, specific steps are outlined in the Interim Health Guidance under screening on page 6 and 7. For assistance with proper procedure, facilities should contact their local child care health consultant.
	Have there been any cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in child care centers in NC? If so, what process took place?	The DCDEE child care consultants have been keeping a list. There have been cases where children and staff have had exposure or tested positive that are isolated and then sent home. When this occurs, administrators contact their local health department regarding advice for next steps. However, there have not been any “outbreaks” in any facilities among any staff or children in childcare facilities. There was a report of a parent of a child that contracted and passed away.
Trauma/Social Emotional Resilience	Has any thought been given to the creation/provision of information/training/support about working with children who are experiencing trauma? It is highly likely that child care providers are going to be facing a number of behavioral changes in young children now and after programs start to re-open. I just want our workforce to have the information and resources they need in order to understand these behaviors and support children.	DCDEE is continuously working to provide resources to providers and families, such as Healthy Social Behavior Project.

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Subsidy	Was there guidance about collection of tuition from non-subsidy families?	DCDEE discourages the collection of tuition from private pay families if the private pay child/ren is not attending.
	Are the emergency subsidy dollars being paid directly to the center or to the family?	Emergency subsidy dollars are being paid directly to the facilities.
	What will happen with the emergency subsidies when the stay at home order is lifted?	DCDEE has begun discussing a transition plan for emergency subsidy.
Bonus Payments	Are there any funds available to provide bonuses for any staff who come onboard after 4/1 if centers need it?	As long as the staff are on board during April and May, they are eligible for the bonus payments. It needs to be documented on the attendance recorded.
	Are the bonus amounts the same for full time teachers as well as full time non-teaching staff?	The bonus amounts are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching Staff: \$950 full-time and \$475 part-time Non-Teaching Staff: \$525 full-time and \$262.50 part-time
	Will you confirm if bonuses are for staff on payroll or staff physically working in the program?	Bonus payments are for employees working on-site at an open child care program in April and May.
Regulatory Flexibility	Is SIDS training still required for new I/T teachers?	CPR, First Aid, and ITS-SIDS training have been extended for 6 months. This change is allowed as long as one child care provider who has completed the CPR and FA training is present while children are in care, and as long as one child care provider in the infant room who has completed the ITS-SIDS training is present while infants are in care.
	Is the background check waiver only for renewals?	The waiver is currently for 3-year renewals. Employees that need a CBC renewal have 6 additional months to get their renewal. DCDEE is working with the Feds regarding a waiver for initial fingerprint-based checks. However, because of State legislation, DCDEE may not be able to implement a waiver for initial CBC checks.
	Who made decision to make background checks 3 years and not use the Federal 5 years? Was the commission involved in this decision?	The 3-year renewal requirement is in state legislation and was approved through the General Assembly, NCGS 110-90.2(b). This law became effective January 1, 1996. The Child Care Commission was not involved in creating this legislation.
	Is the school work screen time required/used included in the 2-hour limit?	For school work, the children have unlimited time and providers are encouraged to use discretion. Preschool children's screen time will be under the 2-hour limit due to developmental appropriateness.

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CARES Act Funding	In regard to the CARES Act funding, how much of that amount will be for childcare?	Approximately 99% of the funds will be used for childcare or in support of childcare facilities and staff.
Support for Providers	Could you talk a bit more about what is being done to support providers? Is there support for centers in accessing federal supports such as access to paid leave and paid sick days under the federal packages? Are center owners and workers being made aware of these benefits, aided in being able to use them?	<p>NC DHHS and DCDEE are doing what they can to support providers. There is also tremendous support coming from child care advocates across North Carolina, who aid in the communication and awareness of such programs.</p> <p>With regards to sick leave, employees who cannot work because of COVID-19 are provided up to 80 hours of emergency paid sick leave by the federal CARES Act. Businesses with fewer than 50 employees, however, are exempt. Businesses with more than 500 employees are required to provide 12 weeks of paid family medical leave for employees dealing with school closures or lack of child care options.</p>
	Will there be support for centers filing small business loans when the federal small business fund is refilled?	Some of the partners, such as CCR&Rs will develop resources for providers.
NC Pre-K	How is DCDEE paying for NC PreK--through CCDF dollars or regular state funding for NC PreK?	NC Pre-K is being paid through the regular allocation which includes TANF, state dollars and the lottery. CCDF dollars will not be used for the most part.